

INTIMATIONS

NOW READY

THE CHINESE AND JAPANESE DIRECTORY

CHINA, JAPAN, STRAITS, &c., &c.

1896.

With which is incorporated THE CHINESE DIRECTORY. This is the THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL ISSUE, and will be found, as usual, to show an advance in the amount of information.

The DIRECTORY covers the whole of the ports and cities of the Far East, from Peking to Valdivia, in which European reside.

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A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 26th May, 1896.

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apt to be imposed upon by splendid promises, the more so when made by picturesque personages, who are supposed to represent all the progress or culture of China. The astute Li has already been careful to diggle before the eyes of Ministers the prospect of a large expenditure in Europe. The Chinese Government want a new Army—Navy to replace those shattered fragments in the war with Japan. It has hinted pretty plainly that the new ships to be bought are to be obtained from British builders, and he has no doubt won German consent with the promise of orders for guns, rifles, etc. These orders are, however, contingent on a revision of the tariff, and hence the chance of disappointment in the German Press when His Excellency left that country without placing any definite order for goods. A bird in hand is worth two in the bush, and an order for war material, to be carried out on condition that the tariff is raised, is of course a rather doubtful transaction. The chief party to the change may be wholly indisposed to agree to it, or else may require some counter-balancing advantages that China will not consent to, and the matter be accordingly indefinitely deferred. Li HUNG-CHANG has his mind of getting most things he sets his hand on, and he will no doubt work hard to secure the concession he is now said to have been commissioned to seek. He did remarkably well at Shimonsu, in the Treaty as signed, and if he engineered the subsequent Russian intervention to save the Liaotung peninsula to China he surpassed himself. He has to meet greater minds in London, but it is the habit of British Governments to be generous when dealing with Asiatics, and it is somewhat to be feared that Lord SALISBURY may concede this most important matter on certain conditions and guarantee without stipulating at the same time for the settlement of other outstanding questions, which will then be allowed to drag their slow length along into the next century.

What he hopes will be done in response to this demand by the Chinese Government is this. To meet the request with an answer in the affirmative, subject, however, to the following or similar stipulations. The tariff to be raised from five to ten per cent. ad valorem on condition that the duty paid frees the goods absolutely from all and every further import whatsoever in the Empire. Further, that a portion of this duty, say 25 to 30 per cent., be paid by the Imperial Maritime Customs to the Treasurer of the province for which the goods are destined or through which they pass to make up for the inability of the provincial authorities to collect loke or other dues on foreign imports. Unless some such provision be made, and the provincial mandarin, deprived of the excuse for such exactions, the illegal levies would continue to be made, despite the provisions of the Treaties, the edicts of the Emperor, or the protests of the Powers. To provide against attempts to infringe this condition sufficient guarantee should be taken, either in the shape of a condition that if the new arrangement did not work satisfactorily reversion should be had to the Treaty of Tientsin, or some other condition equally stringent. At the same time we trust the British Government will stipulate that this concession can only be carried into effect when other matters now pending are settled. Thus the opening up of the West River and other inland waterways of Kwangtung and of the Siang River to foreign trade and navigation, the rectification of the boundaries of the colony of Hongkong, and the retrocession of Chusan to Great Britain in compensation for the wrongful seizure by China of one of the Shan States to France, the settlement of the long pending claim for the destruction of the steamer Kowshing when under charter to Li HUNG-CHANG, and various other minor claims should be insisted upon at the same time. There is no occasion to confuse issues or questions, but the opportunity to procure a settlement ought not to be lost, leaving in mind the principle of eternal shifts which animates the Peking Government. We hope, and we believe we express the opinions of all Englishmen in China, that the British Government will only listen to the tariff proposals of Li HUNG-CHANG on some such terms as those above outlined.

The following points seem worthy of notice in the report of the Committee on Medical Education in Hongkong. In the title of the College the word "Chinese" has been struck out. The future College would be open to all Hongkong young men and not solely to Chinese. The Portuguese, Eurasian, Indian, and European community could, if they so desired, share in its benefits. A change is also proposed in the localisation of the College. The voluntary organisation heretofore existing as a College has had its headquarters in the Alice Memorial Hall, Netherlands Hospital. It is now proposed to place it in the Civil Hospital, where the patients are of every race and creed and where students could learn by seeing European patients willingly carrying out their treatment. This change of localisation does not shut out the Alice Memorial Hospital from being used for educational purposes, but the main teaching centre would be at the Civil Hospital. With the change in localisation there would also be a change of administration. The present College is a voluntary organisation and free entirely from state control. It thus flourishes while willing volunteers choose to work it; it is liable to come to grief when such volunteers are not forthcoming. In the year and tear of a tropical climate such organisations with difficulty survive. To remedy this weakness, to give the College a definite stability, and to ensure its continuous existence, the Committee recommend its being placed under the Colonial authorities as a Colonial institution. It may thus perhaps lose the enormous driving force of enthusiastic workers, but it will likewise be saved from perishing altogether from want of staff. Its working would become a part and parcel of the duties of the Colonial Medical Department and it would be part of the official duties of the Colonial Surgeon to see that it flourished. Whoever is nominated to fill that post after Dr. ALEXANDER'S retirement would thus know that the supervision of the College would be part of his ordinary work.

The Committee in this report have presumably copied the Indian custom, where all the medical schools are directly under state control and worked by state-paid medical men. One special doctor to teach anatomy and physiology would have to be imported, as this teaching is highly technical, and official would be the real working head of the school, acting under the general supervision of the Principal, who would be the Colonial Surgeon. Five years is laid down as the period of study. In India only four years is required for the "Assistant Surgeon" class. It is most difficult to find a title for the graduates of this College. It will not for years be possible to train men here up to the English standard, nor is it needed. The Committee presumably again wish to copy the Indian custom, which is quite different from the highly expensive and technical English routine. The Indian Government is year by year turning out fairly taught men who go through a much less technical curriculum than in England, and who eventually get a licence as "assistant surgeons," and these men are replacing the ignorant natives who formerly treated the masses of the people. The wish is to do the same in Hongkong, namely, to have an easier and less technical curriculum, and to turn out men year by year fitted for minor appointments and for general medical work, but excluding the more severe operations or technical duties. For the next twenty years Hongkong can hardly aim at more than this, and must import its specialist medical men from England. The Indian Government has no dealings, whatever with the General Medical Council in England. It licenses its inferior but very useful graduates for work within India only, and the Hongkong graduates would be labelled "Made in Hongkong—For Colonial Use only." No question of English registration should be raised at all. To appeal to the English General Medical Council would merely be to upset the whole scheme under the guise of producing a doctor like an English one. As it is unlikely that any graduate of the College would go to England to seek practice there is no need whatever to ask the General Medical Council to intervene. Besides, even if a graduate did go to England he could not practise there unless the General Medical Council placed him on the Register, which it certainly would not do for a quarter of a century at least, nor until the Hongkong College has greatly improved its teaching. In a previous article we took exception to the conferring of high sounding titles without commensurate qualifications, but under all the circumstances of the case "Licentiate of the Hongkong Medical College" may perhaps be considered as simple and convenient a title as could be chosen. The title "Assistant Surgeon" would be liable to objection, as it is now borne by many fully qualified English surgeons. It seems a pity to differ so to tresspass time when already in 1896 alone eleven hundred inhabitants of the colony have died of a preventable disease which depends entirely on insanitary conditions. The education of the Chinese in sanitary and medical matters would help to bring about sanitary reforms with the concurrence of the Chinese themselves and so tend to mitigate their opposition and passive resistance. As an important part of call, the Charing Cross of the Eastern Seas, as a fortress, and as a cooling station of the first class, Hongkong should be able to have at all times a clean bill of health. All that tends in that direction helps the colony. No one can deny that sanitary teaching helps in that direction.

The Shanghai Municipal Council held special meeting on Thursday, 30th July, to consider the Bund Foreclosure question.

A proclamation has been issued by the Magistrate of Shanghai to suppress the evil reports that have been circulated concerning foreigners at that city.

We are indebted to the Spanish Consul for a copy of the following telegram received from the Manila Observatory—

On the 28th inst., at Manila, 11th Aug. 9.25 a.m. There are strong indications of another depression in the Pacific to the N.W. of Manila.

The sugar crop in West and Mid Java is said to have yielded less profitably than in East Java. It is expected that the high yield in these sections of the island will largely make up for the shortage in the other sections.

The Singapore Free Press says—Mr. Thio Tsin Siat, the Acting Consul-General for China, whose office is at the Chinese Consulate, is leaving for China in a few days. It is reported that he has been recalled to China on business connected with projected railways.

Japanese door, we read, is one of the latest things in the Scottish Highlands. Mr. Arthur Bignold, proprietor of Lochcarron, in Ross-shire, has successfully accomplished the task of "chambrising the Oriental style." The Japanese head has been found, and the animals are strong.

At Shanghai on the morning of the 5th inst., eight houses in an alleyway off the Taungmang Road, Hongkong, were completely destroyed by fire and several others were badly damaged by fire and water. The buildings, which are owned by Messrs. E. D. Sassoon and Co. were insured, but the contents of the houses were uninsured.

The Zolitschko Correspondence learns from St. Petersburg that the transportation of convicts to Siberia is about to be brought to an end. General Dukovnik, the Governor-General of Siberia, has urged in high quarters the acceleration of this measure, and it is expected that an imperial order to this effect will be issued very shortly.

The Peking and Tientsin Times of the 1st August says—The Customs cruiser Dolphin left Chiao about the same time as the Hia with stores, &c. for the N.E. Promontory Light-house, and, up to going to port, has not been heard of. She carries a crew of one hundred and five or six. Grave fears are entertained for her safety.

Narrs received from Hainan on the Yellow River reports that in a recent conflict between the Chinese and the British, the Chinese were victorious. The British were defeated, and the Chinese were victorious. The British were defeated, and the Chinese were victorious.

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